

10/050368

25 OCT 2001

[52433/664]

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6/19/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Kaoru FUJIMOTO, et al.  
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned  
Filing Date Herewith  
Title PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF FORMATE ESTERS OR  
METHANOL AND CATALYST THEREFOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the title:**

--(Amended) PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF FORMATE ESTERS OR  
METHANOL AND CATALYST THEREFOR --

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-4 and 6-10 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

- A1
12. (New) A process for producing a formic ester, comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol to produce a formic ester, wherein the reaction is performed in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst.
  13. (New) A process for producing a methanol, comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst to produce a formic ester, wherein a hydrogenolysis catalyst for formic ester and hydrogen are allowed to be present together in the reaction system to hydrogenate the produced formic ester and thereby obtain a methanol.
  14. (New) A process for producing a methanol, comprising reacting carbon monoxide with an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst to produce a formic ester, separating the produced formic ester and hydrogenating the separated formic ester by allowing a hydrogenolysis catalyst and hydrogen to be present together, thereby obtaining a methanol.
  15. (New) A process for producing a methanol, comprising reacting an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst, and a catalyst containing Cu simultaneously with Mn and/or Re to obtain a methanol from carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
  16. (New) The production process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkali metal-type catalyst other than an alkali metal alkoxide and the alkaline earth metal-type catalyst are a catalyst containing an alkali metal salt and a catalyst containing an alkaline earth metal salt, respectively.